United Nations S/AC.44/2007/29

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 April 2011

Original: English

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

Note verbale dated 24 March 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and has the honour to refer to the regional workshop which was held on 11 and 12 December 2010, in Riyadh, regarding preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and in reference to paragraph 3 of Security Council resolution 1810 (2008).

The Permanent Mission is enclosing a list of new information regarding the national report of Saudi Arabia on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), in accordance with the opening remarks at the above-mentioned workshop of His Highness Prince Dr. Torki Bin Mohamed Bin Saud Al-Kabir (Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Multilateral Relations, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) (see annex).

11-63135 (E) 151211

Please recycle

Annex to the note verbale dated 24 March 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee

Matrix and reporting: Saudi Arabia

The December 2010 workshop presentations confirmed or updated the following:

- The Cabinet issued Decision No. 134 on 12 April 2010 to expand the national entity in charge of implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention to include supervision of implementing the Biological Weapons Convention
- In the process of establishing guidelines to monitor radioactive and nuclear materials, the Kingdom is working on strengthening the means of monitoring the transport and smuggling of radioactive, nuclear and other hazardous materials across its borders (see "field visit" section below) to combat the illegal trade in such materials
- The Government signed the Nuclear Guarantees Agreement and the Small Quantities Protocol thereto on 16 May 2005 and ratified the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Safeguards Agreement, which entered into force on 13 January 2009
- The Government ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Nuclear Terrorism in December 2007
- The Kingdom acceded to the IAEA Nuclear Safety Convention, which came into force on 16 June 2010
- Cabinet Decision No. 335 of 4 October 2010 was issued to approve accession to the IAEA Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management
- Royal Decree No. A 35 was issued on 17 April 2010 establishing King Abdullah City for Nuclear and Renewable Energy. Article 4 of the City's by-laws stipulate that the City "shall apply national obligations emanating from all agreements the Kingdom has signed or will sign in connection with nuclear and renewable energy, and shall assume the responsibility of supervising and monitoring all activities related to the uses of nuclear energy and its radioactive waste"
- The Government's team of experts will take into consideration all opinions and discussions at the workshop when preparing future reports on resolution 1540 (2004) (its previous reports having been submitted in 2004 and 2006)

Dialogue with various other Saudi officials:

- The new King Abdullah City for Nuclear and Renewable Energy is the Saudi nuclear regulatory authority, established as a distinct entity from the King Abdullah City for Science and Technology, which remains to address all other technologies, including chemical and biological-related also relevant for resolution 1540 (2004)
- The Ministry of the Interior is responsible for the licensing of imports and exports of technologies, liaising with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which has knowledge of treaty obligations and requirements

Riyadh dry (land) port visit:

Saudi port authorities and officials demonstrated a newly installed advanced radiological detection system. These portal monitors are being deployed in ports nationwide, and will contribute to the development of the Kingdom's integrated border and port management system as its major new national rail infrastructure and associated advanced communications systems become operational.